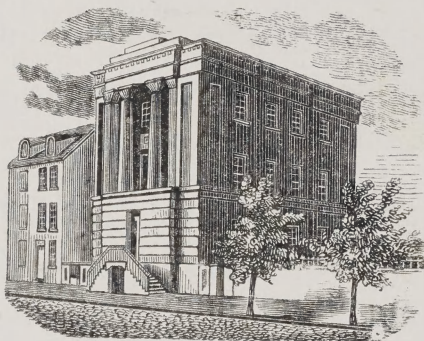


AN ESSAY ON

*Mania-a-Potu*

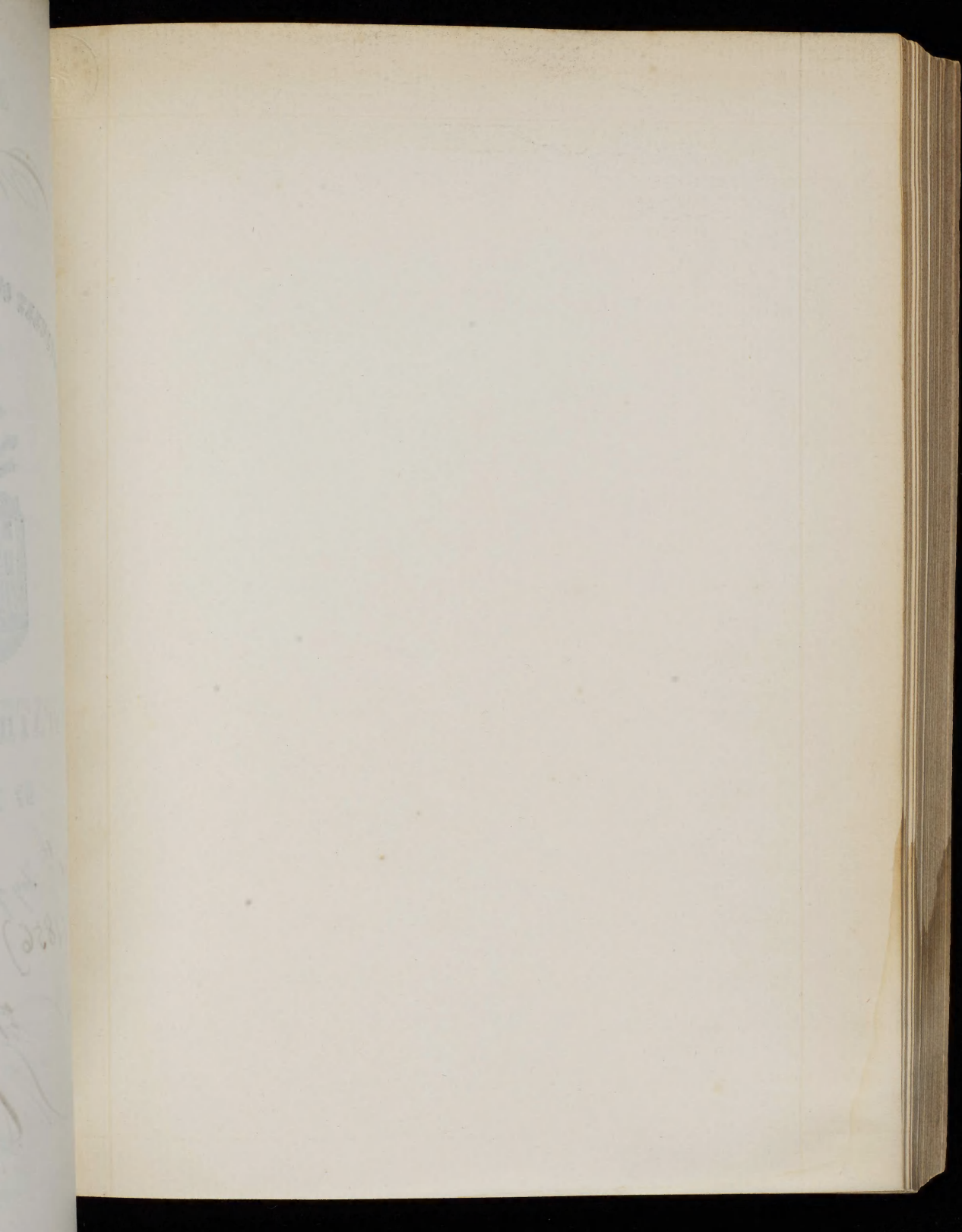
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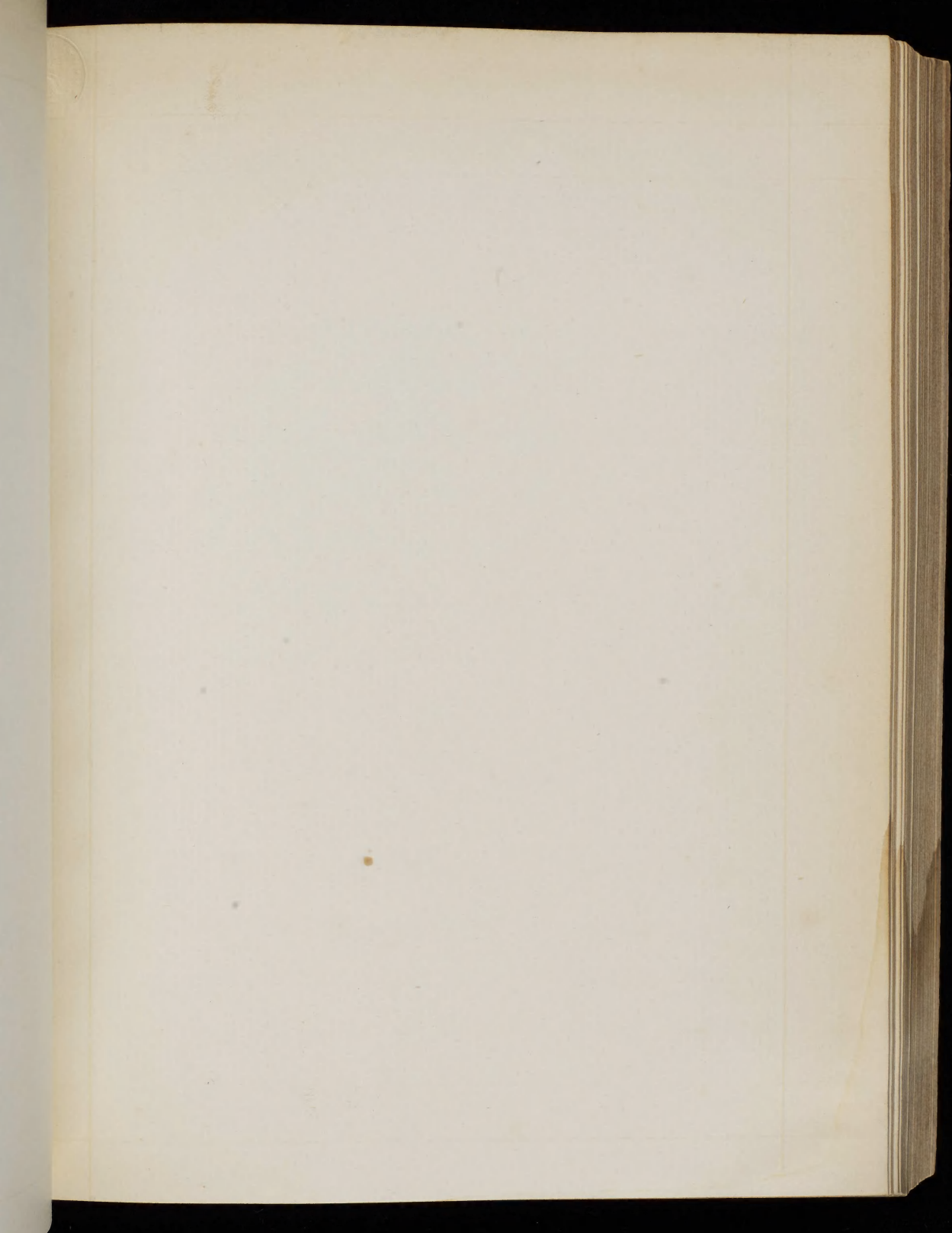


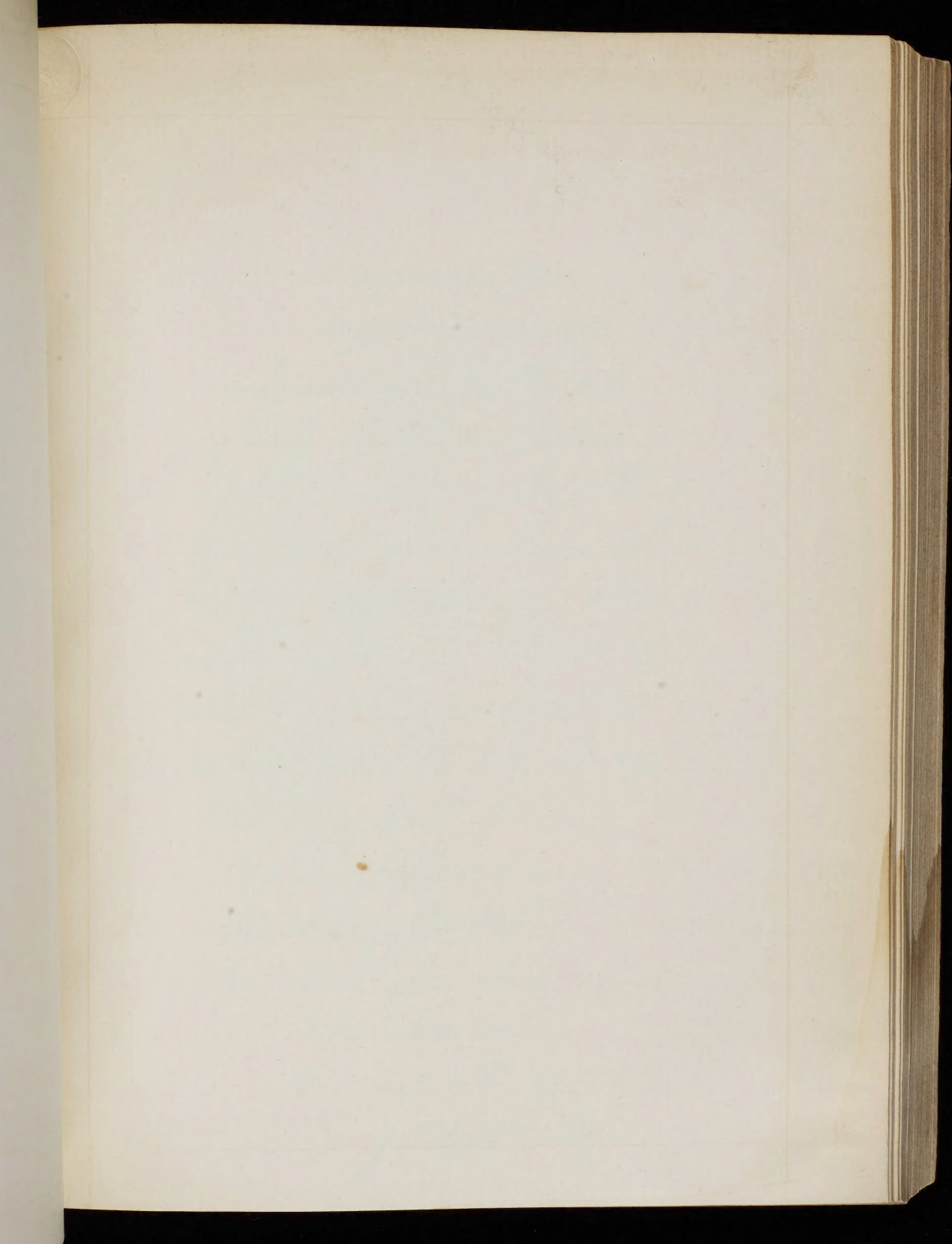
HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE  
OF PENNSYLVANIA,

On the 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, Eighteen Hundred and  
Fifty-six. (1856)

By *Wm. Malcolm Havens*  
of *S. Catharines*  
*Canada West*







Let me know

And what you think of it  
I think the human body is  
a whole, not a part. There is not  
a single organ in the whole  
without a purpose, that is not  
imposed on it by nature, but  
from the nature of the whole.  
The perfect machine, but when it  
comes to the human body, that whole  
body of man, we must be  
guided by the greatest of all the  
signs which the universe gives  
us, the living body, and the soul  
of man, and the spirit of man.  
The opposing catalogue of the  
descent of the human body.  
I think you will be the  
ultimate result of the  
discovering and studying

# Introduction

Numerous are the diseases to which the human family are liable, In fact there is not a single organ, in the whole Animal economy, that is not obnoxious to its power. — From the mildest, to the most fearful maladies, but above all, those that fasten on that noble faculty of man, the mind, present the greatest obstacles, against which the weapons of the healing art, are brought to bear. — And from amongst the appalling Catalogue of this diseases of this description I select one, which is the legitimate result of that demoralizing and degrading

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habit, that of drinking alcoholic  
beverages. A practice, against  
which, the combined powers of  
Moral suasion, and the enact-  
ment of stringent laws, have  
had but little effect, although  
Statistics show us, that this  
disease is much less frequent  
now than formerly. And every  
lover of reform and humanity  
should bid "God speed" the  
measure that has for its object  
to raise fallen man from the  
degraded condition, into which  
this vice has plunged him,  
and placing him again in the  
scale of Creation, in which this  
Creator designed he should move,  
Even should the victim escape

over

every one of the diseases contained  
in the frightful Catalogue, as the  
result of intemperance such  
as. Inflammation of the brain, and  
its membranes, the pleura, the  
stomach, and the liver, Jaundice,  
Dropsey, Mania, Diabetes, Gout,  
and Dyspepsia, with all its  
attendant miseries: Yet he is —  
obnoxious to one not less formidable,  
which sometimes manifests itself  
rather suddenly, and speedily  
destroys the Patient, sometimes  
creeping on by slow, and almost  
imperceptible degrees, though it  
may not prove immediately fatal,  
May leave him in a lamentable  
state of debility both of body and  
mind, and materially shorten the term

of his existence,

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This disease has been divided into three stages. I propose giving the symptoms of each one, and the remedies to be employed, together with their indications.

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This disease is not caused by the immediate action of Alcohol but is developed after the patient has been indulging freely for some time, and then the stimulant suddenly withdrawn.

And the first effects, from the suspension of the stimulating ~~and~~ feelings of great weakness, a sinking of the whole system with an indescribable anxiety and agitation, which is generally

repressed in the patient's countenance  
 His imagination breaks away from  
 the control of reason, and he is tor-  
 mented by vague alarms, fear of imp-  
 ending danger, *Phantasies* &  
 his hands tremble, his mind is  
 weak, he has confusion of ideas,  
 & though without positive delirium  
 The pulse is soft and feeble, but  
 frequent. the extremities are moist  
 and cool, there is loss of appetite  
 sometimes nausea and vomiting,  
 tongue furred, and tendency to  
 constipation. — This is the  
 first stage of the disease, and may  
 be called simple *Delirium tremens*  
 If taken at this period, the  
 disease is readily controlled by  
 proper remedies, or, it will

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disappears for the time, by allowing  
the patient some of his old stimulus.  
But this is only adding fuel to  
the flame. And should never, under  
any circumstances be resorted to.

Although, the withholding the stim-  
ulus aggravates the previous symptoms  
and the disease becomes thoroughly  
established, The phenomena that  
next present themselves, are,  
Illusions, consequent upon the disorder  
of the perception faculties, false  
impressions are received through his  
senses, but he will believe them  
to be mere phantasies, having no real  
existence for a time, but soon  
they assume tangible forms, and  
he believes them real. — In general  
these hallucinations only occur

at night, and when daylight appears they vanish— however as the disease progresses, these illusions become constant, and the patient is surrounded by the most horrible and disgusting objects, devils and hobgoblins, surround him on all sides, hissing and leering and threatening, the apartment is filled with toads serpents, and rats, they creep into his bed, get into his clothes, wind 'round his neck, and he making desperate attempts to free himself from them, or imploring his attendants to remove them.—

The intensity of the delirium, and the more complete the hallucinations, depends entirely upon the temperament of the

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patient, those of the purely nervous temperament, of course suffer the most, while in those of the leucophlegmatic temperament it is quite mild, —

Setting aside the variety of delirium there is one feature of the disease that is constant, and that is fear of personal injury: the patient imagines that people are lurking around him conspiring to kill him, and will treat his attendants to save him, he becomes furious and requires often to be restrained from leaving his bed and escaping, But he never shows a malicious disposition, in attempting to injure those around him. There is another symptom, that

is always present from the commencement of the second stage till the termination of the disease, and that is constant wakefulness. In fact - ~~as soon~~ as soon as the patient can be brought to sleep, you can entertain hopes of a speedy recovery.

Muscular tremors are a common but by no means a characteristic symptom. for there has been fatal cases, where they have been absent from the first to the last. They are generally observed in the hands, tendons of the muscles of the forearm, and in the tongue. The patient has no appetite, the tongue generally moist, but covered with a brownish coating, stools dark coloured, but generally, there

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is Constipation. In some cases  
the disease may take a favour-  
able turn at this period, there  
is gradual cessation of the violence  
of his delirium, he sinks into a deep  
sleep of from twelve, twenty four, and  
sometimes thirty six hours duration  
from which he wakes pale, exhausted,  
and trembling, but with return of  
his Appetite, he gains gradually  
from this off. his symptoms  
entirely disappear, and he is  
restored. Instead however of  
terminating in this favourable  
manner, Cases if left to themselves  
or improperly treated, lapse into  
the third stage. Constant delirium  
incoherence without restlessness sometimes  
to such a degree, as to require powerful

restraint, at times extreme prostration  
 excessive trembling of the whole body,  
 frequent but feeble pulse, perspiration  
 over the whole body, the features are  
 pale sunken, and have a pinched  
 appearance, the pupils are generally  
 dilated, muttering delirium, coma,  
convulsions and death supervene.

The disease runs a longer or shorter  
 course according to the severity of the  
 symptoms. It may terminate in  
 three or four days, or it may last  
 two days or two weeks. In some  
 cases the typhoid symptoms of  
 the last stage, set in almost  
 at the beginning, and death  
 soon closes the scene. —

But this is generally found  
 in persons who have led a life

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of intemperance, and whose systems  
have become debilitated, and speculially  
predisposed to the disease,

### Therapeutics

The principal remedies to be  
used, in treating this disease,  
Are, Nux. Vom., Opium, Acon. Bell. Sulph.  
Carb. veg. Hyos. & Calc. carb — When  
taken in the first stage the disease  
is almost always controlled by  
Nux Vom. it should be administered  
from 3 to 6 hours, according to  
the severity of the symptoms. But  
if the patient should be of  
plethoric habit, and there should  
be considerable cerebral excitement,  
a dose of Acon followed by a few  
doses of Bell will prove beneficial  
but the cases in which these remedies

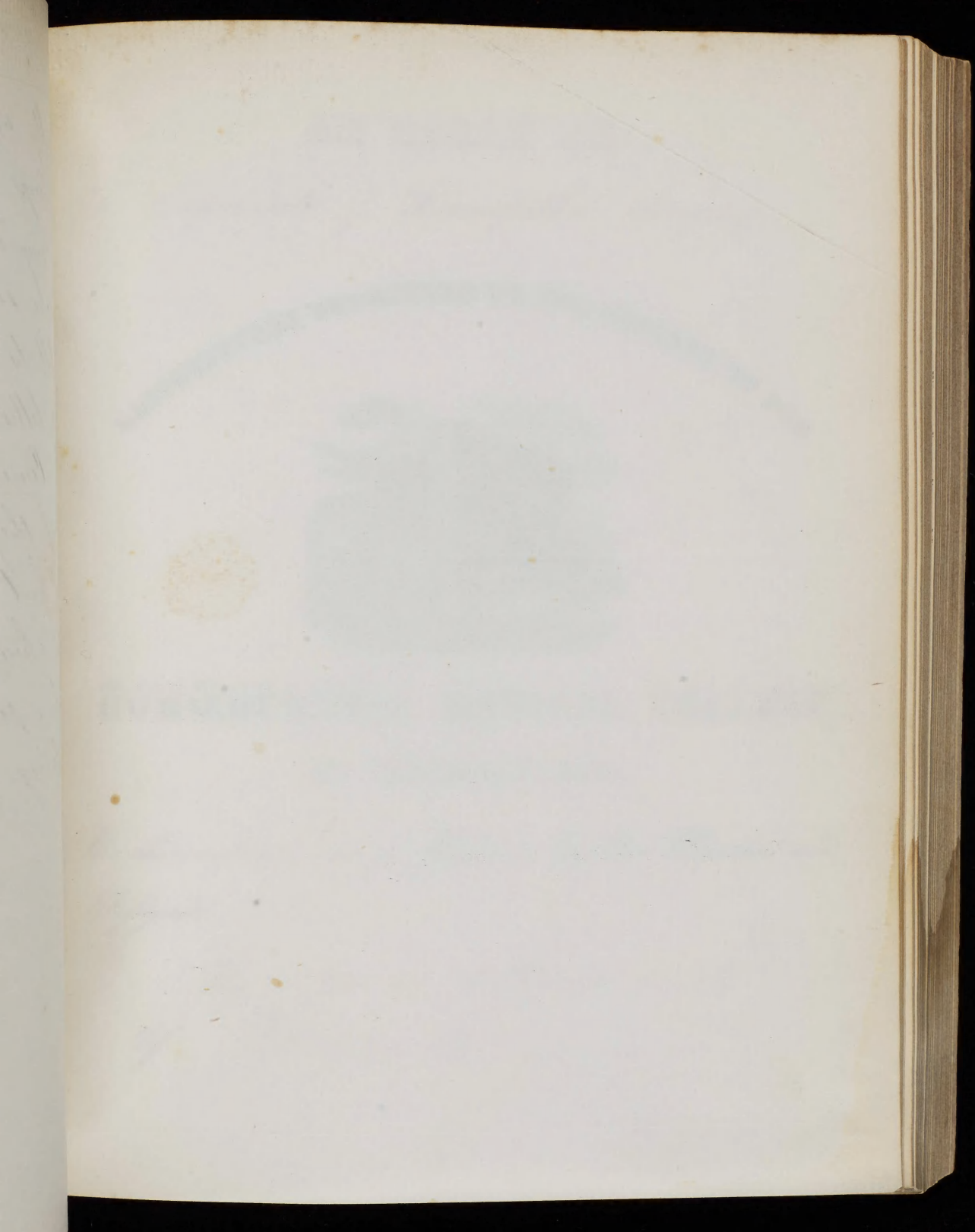
will be required, are not very common.  
And it is seldom, if called  
to the case in time, that you are  
required to Administer more than  
Nux. and Opium. Sulphur, is a  
valuable remedy in very obstinate  
Cases, And which do not Yield to  
Nux or Opium. Carbo veg. Is useful  
in the last stages where we  
have great prostration, frequent  
but feeble pulse, fetid breath  
perspiration over the whole body,  
with offensive smell, muttering  
delirium &c. — Hyos. When  
there is furious delirium, rage,  
the patient is fearful, anxious  
appearance of the face, subsultus  
tendimus, Coma vigil & convulsions  
Coffea, Cruca & Chamomilla may be

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used to allay the excessive irritability  
and restlessness. Cale carb is a useful  
remedy, particularly where the  
disease occurs in lymphatic  
subjects, and also to remove any  
sequelae that may remain. But  
in treating this disease I have  
never had occasion to use more than  
Bell. Nux. Opium & Hyos. And it  
is seldom that you are required to  
exhibit any other than these.  
This disease proves much less  
formidable in the hands of the  
Homoeopath than in those of his  
Allopathic brother. Too often does  
it happen, that after the patient  
has undergone a thorough course of  
treatment, under the supervision of  
one of the "Regulars" that instead

of his being restored to health. he is left in a deplorable state of debility, both of body and mind and from which he never recovers but finally slides out of this state of existence, before he has lived out half his days—

I will not say this is the legitimate result of their mode of treatment, but that it is the combined effects of the disease and the drugs.

Let me not be considered uncharitable here, for this is nothing more than the admission of some of the greatest men that the "Old School" can boast of. And being as they are, truly ignorant of the only true method of cure, what can we expect. But we must deal



gently with them, touch their  
failings lightly, and endeavour  
by every means in our power to  
rescue some of these mighty  
intellects (whose efforts are worthy  
of a better cause) from the worse  
than Cimmerian darkness in  
which they have been groping,  
and lead them gently to that  
light, whose beams are shedding  
such a glorious power upon  
suffering humanity